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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
31 January 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Pueblo Sitrep No. 25
(As of 5 PM EST)

1. North Korea has indicated it may eventually be willing to discuss the Pueblo issue with the US at Panmunjon. Kim Kwang-Hyop, a member of the secretariat of the central committee of North Korea's communist party, said today in Pyongyang that "there is a precedent for the treatment of similar cases (as the Pueblo incident) at the Korean Military Armistice Commission." "It is a miscalculation," Kim continued, "if the US imperialists think that they can solve the incident of the intrusion of the Pueblo into the territorial waters of our country by military threats or by the method of aggressive war or through illegal discussion at the United Nations." He added, however, that "it will be a different story if they want to solve this question by method of the previous practice."

2. The precedent Kim mentions probably refers to negotiations at Panmunjon in 1963-1964 which resulted in the release of two US helicopter pilots downed in North Korea.

3. According to preliminary reports, the destroyer Rowan was in a collision with a Soviet merchant ship at 2:52 PM this afternoon. The Rowan was accompanying the Ranger task group about 50 miles off the South Korean coast. The Soviet ship, the 11,000 tons Kapitan Vislobokov, was en route to Odessa from Vladivostok when the collision occurred. There is no information yet on the extent of the damage suffered by either ship.

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